FURRY YOU DON'T NEGRO ACT LIKE A NEGRO

FEB 20 THRU MAR 15 2020

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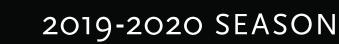
BY M. DENISE LEE

DIRECTED BY CHRISTIE VELA



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This playbill is a publication of Theatre Three, Inc. in support of Funny, You Don't Act Like A Negro (the third show in the 2019-20 season) on the Norma Young Arena Stage.

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Funny, You Don't Act Like A Negro was commissioned, in part, by the Lake Placid Center for the Arts and James Lemons, Executive Director.



Join us for post-performance discussions following each Thursday evening and all matinee performances. These "T3 Talks" are hosted by Cindee Mayfield.



Theatre Three has new Hearing Assistance devices which may be checked out without charge from the box office. These devices enhance the performance experience for audience members with any degree of hearing limitation. The box office personnel can provide you with the devices either before the show or at intermission. Theatre Three's staff and board are most grateful to the anonymous donor who allows us to offer this enhancement to our patrons.

THEATRE THREE'S 2019 - 2020 SEASON



Funny, You Don't Act Like A Negro by M. Denise Lee Directed by Christie Vela

CAST

ARTISTIC STAFF

SDC DIRECTOR Christie Vela ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Whitney LaTrice Coulter SCENIC DESIGN Jeffrey Schmidt COSTUME DESIGN **Yvonne Johnson** ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGN **Elise Sottile** LIGHTING DESIGN Jon Felt SOUND DESIGN **Claudia V. Jenkins** PROPS DESIGN **Cindy Ernst-Godinez PROJECTION DESIGN** Sid Curtis PLAYWRITING CONSULTANT Jonathan Norton

WOMAN 1 Jazzay Jabbar WOMAN 2 Jessica D. Turner* WOMAN 3 Liza Marie Gonzalez MAN 1 Gerald Taylor II** MAN 2 **Gregory Lush*** MAN 3 David Lugo* CHILD 1 Alexis Muturi** CHILD 2 Summer Stern** CHILD 3 Juliana Gamino

PRODUCTION STAFF

THE

NORMA

YOUNG

ARENA

STAGE

STAGE MANAGER Laura Berrios **PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Claudia V. Jenkins** CHILD SUPERVISOR Adelaide Willert RUNNING CREW Theresa Kellar

SPECIAL THANKS

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- * Indicates members working under Actors' Equity Association contracts in this production
- ** Indicates members who are Equity Membership candidates

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D PLAYWRIGHT NOTES

I toyed with writing this for over 15 years. I asked friends to co-write it with me, fearing I couldn't possibly write a play by myself. On some level, for a VERY brief moment, I bought into the 'a black man is President. Maybe this isn't relevant anymore'. I snapped out of that quick. Now I realize it just wasn't the right time.... for it or for me. I had to get to the point that I could say what I needed to say without fear of critique. (I'm still a little scared!) I am also thankful to Jeffrey for believing in me enough to give me the opportunity. I'm writing this not for acclaim or any desire to be a playwright. Hell, I have to double check the spelling of the word every time I write it. I am writing it now

because we all need to take a long hard look at ourselves and ask 'Why are we still here? And 'What part am I playing in this?' We all know that racism and bias are learned behaviors. But who is doing the teaching? We are. Whether blatant racism.homophobia. sexism or implicit bias WE ARE. Even though this next generation is trying it's best to escape the way of thinking being passed down, we continue to influence them. We all have to take a long, hard look at ourselves and ask, 'Do I do/say that?' If the answer is 'Yes', then stop it. Each of us must play our part to make the world a better place. Decency demands it.

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Artistic Staff Biographies

M. Denise Lee

(PLAYWRIGHT) is an award-winning actress, singer whose performance style has charmed theater, nightclub and television audiences for more than three decades. Lee is based in Dallas, but the world is her home. She has also delighted international crowds at clubs in Shanghai, Beijing, Switzerland and France. She is the founder and **Executive Producer of** the Denise Lee Onstage Cabaret Series and the Dallas Cabaret Festival featuring the best in Dallas based and National Cabaret Artists. She is proud to add Playwright to her bio! In addition to her work in the arts, she established 'Community Conversation' through her Change the Perception initiative in 2016, following the Dallas Police shootings. These monthly gatherings bring people from all walks of life together for respectful open honest dialogue in order to heal racial and community tension. She has been awarded the Rudy Eastman Diversity Award by the Live Theater League of Tarrant County and a Special Citation of Recognition by the DFW Theater Critics Award. And in August, Denise was honored to be the 2019

recipient of the 'Hero of Hope' Award. In addition to the Dallas meetings, the Conversations are also held regularly in Ft. Worth and surrounding areas.

Christie Vela

(DIRECTOR) Is the Associate Artistic Director and was previously seen in The Armor Plays, She directed Jekyll and Hyde last season. You've seen her work At Second Thought Theater, in Enemies/People, A Kid Like *lake*, and *The Necessities* and directed Bull, Straight White Men for Second Thought and *What We* Were. Founding Member of the Brierley Resident Acting Company at Dallas Theater Center acting credits include Romeo a Juliet; Sense & Sensibility; Medea; The Book Club Play; A Christmas Carol; King Lear; God of Carnage; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; and The Beauty Plays. At DTC she directed A Christmas Carol (2015), Gloria Fade and Real Women Have Curves. At Kitchen Dog Theater she directed Se Llama Cristina; The Turn of the Screw; Boom; and The Pillowman. You've also seen her work as director/ actor in the Metroplex at Echo Theatre, Amphibian Stage, Undermain

Theatre, Shakespeare Dallas, Teatro Dallas. She frequently directs outside of Dallas at Trinity Rep in Rhode Island and is adjunct faculty at Booker T Washington HSFPVA.

Whitney LaTrice Coulter

(ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) is thrilled to be back at Theatre Three after appearing as Holly Burrell in Foxfire. Since 2012, she's worked as an actress and costumer at theatres all over the Metroplex including Kitchen Dog, Watertower, Undermain, Jubilee and many more. Notable theatre credits include A Love Offering (T'wana Jepson), Cardboard Piano (Adiel/ Ruth), Ruined (Sophie) Seven Guitars (Ruby) and Company (Marta). Much love to my family for their unwavering support.

Laura Berrios

(STAGE MANAGER) holds a B.F.A. in Theatre from the University of Dallas and a M.F. A. Design and Theatre Technology: Stage Management from the University of Missouri Kansas- City. She has taught at UNT, Baylor University and is currently an adjunct professor at UTA. She has work locally with Shakespeare Dallas, Red Tail Productions,

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Dallas Theatre Center, SMU Dance Department and UNT Opera Department.

Jeffrey Schmidt

(SCENIC DESIGN) is an actor, director, designer and writer with a 25 year history in theatre, film and television. He grew up in Whitehouse, Texas. Currently, he serves as the Artistic Director of Theatre Three in Dallas which just closed their 57th Season. His affiliation with Theatre Three goes back to 90's in many different capacities. His passion is for new work and more specifically new work from Dallas and Texas based artists. He has been involved in more than 20 world premiere productions many of which were written by Dallas artists. His next season at Theatre Three will include 3 more world premieres by Dallas artists. Additionally, he is the Executive Artistic Director of The Drama Club and served as Artistic Director of Moonwater Theater Company for three years. He is a member of Actor's Equity Association and is represented by the Mary Collins Agency.

Jon Felt

(LIGHTING DESIGN) is a Lighting and Scenic Designer based in Dallas. This is Jon's third time

designing for Theatre Three. Some highlights of past productions: Gianni Schicchi, La testament de la tante Caroline & L'incoronazione di Poppea (UNT Opera), King Liz (Amphibian Stage Productions), Phaedra (Texas Woman's University), The Whipping Man (African American Repertory Theater), Idols of the King & Other Desert Cities (Theatre Three). Jon is very excited to be working with Theatre Three again!

Claudia V. Jenkins

(SOUND DESIGNER) is extremely excited to be making her professional debut as a sound designer. She recently graduated from The Savannah College of Art and Design after spending three years designing shows at SCAD. Some of her favourite designs were The Mountaintop, Angry Psycho Princesses, and The Foreigner. She is excited to continue working in DFW and to bring some Philadelphia flare to Texas. Go birds!

Yvonne Johnson

(COSTUME DESIGNER) is excited to make her debut at Theatre Three. She is a Marine Corps veteran currently attending SMU's M.F.A.

Stage Design program & works in film, television, opera & theatre. She is the recent recipient of the Black Theatre Network's Judy Dearing award for costume design & the **Television Academy's** 2018 costume design internship winner. Her upcoming shows include DTC's Public Works Dallas Twelfth Night & Stage West's The Children. www. yvonnejohnsondesigns. com

Cindy Ernst-Godinez

(PROPS DESIGNER) is delighted to work with Theatre Three for the first time. Her designs are frequently seen on stage for Shakespeare Dallas and Kitchen Dog Theater. She is an Artistic Company Member of Kitchen Dog Theater. She is an avid I-Spy player.

Sid Curtis

(PROJECTION DESIGN) A life-long entertainment industry veteran, Sid began career her as an actress. She has toured the world as a Lighting Designer for acts ranging from Anthrax & Public Enemy to Lou Reed. She was the Art Director for MTV's Times Square Studios for 6 years and currently owns her own company providing design services for corporate

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

events. She is delighted to be participating in her original love, theatre, through her work with Theatre Three.

Cast Biographies



Jazzav Jabbar (WOMAN 1) is extremely thrilled to make her debut at Theatre Three. She has been acting since the ripe age of 12. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi with a BA in Theatre. Some of her favorites roles have been Linda Rotunda in Savage in Limbo, Brenda in Forget Me Not and Tasha in After Her Soul Left. She also debuted an original production, *Red Cotton* in Theatre Too last year with D.A.E. which she hopes to reprise!



Gerald Taylor II (MAN 1) is thrilled to make his Theater 3 debut.

He graduated from Texas A&M-Commerce with an MA in theatre. He completed two National tours for Dallas Children's Theater (*The BFG*, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*). He has appeared in shows for MBS Productions, Pegasus Theater, Rover Dramawerks, and the Pocket Sandwhich Theater.



Alexis Muturi

(CHILD 1) is thrilled to be making her debut at Theatre Three, She was seen most recently as Little Timoune in Once Upon This Island at the Firehouse Theatre, She has starred in several roles at her school – Robinson Middle School where she was seen most recently as Cinderella (the Shakespeare version). She made her acting debut at the Jewish Community Center of Dallas. She enjoys singing, travelling and spending time with her family.



Jessica D. Turner (WOMAN 2). Jessica is happy to be back in the round at Theater Three. Recent DFW Theater: What We Were, Second Thought/ Circle Theatre; The Father, Stage West; Ella Enchanted, Dallas Children's Theater. Other theaters: Dallas Theater Center, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory, Cherry Lane Theater, Magic Theater, Lyric Stage of Boston and several Shakespeare Festivals throughout the country. Jessica holds an MFA in Acting from American Conservatory Theater and a BFA from SMU.



Gregory Lush (MAN 2) is excited to be back home at Theatre Three, where he has appeared in shows like Assassins, On the Eve, Present Laughter, The Goodbye Girl, Pygmalion,



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CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

and A Dog's Life to name a few. He has performed all over the country and can be seen in films like I Become Gilgamesh, The Colonel, and the forthcoming Gods and Heroes and can be heard voicing characters on shows like Fairy Tail, Dances With Devils, and Dragonball Super. He teaches theatre at Richland College, is represented by the Kim Dawson Agency, and makes his home in Oak Cliff with his insanely talented wife.



Summer Stern (CHILD 2) is thrilled to be making her first appearance with Theatre Three. Recent credits include Nuncrackers A-Men (Mary) at Uptown Players; Evita (Youth Ensemble) at Lyric Stage; The Secret Garden (Mary Lennox) at Stolen Shakespeare Guild; Everybody (Time) at Stage West and The Innocents (Flora) at Richardson Theatre Centre, Summer is grateful to Christie, Denise and Jeffrey for allowing her to be a part

of this incredible show and wishes to thank her castmates for their support and friendship. @summerokali



Liza Marie Gonzalez (WOMAN 3) is thrilled to be making her Theatre Three debut! She is an Artistic Company Member at Kitchen Dog Theater, and has also appeared onstage at Second Thought Theatre, Dallas Children's Theater, Project X: Theatre, Cara Mia Theatre, the Undermain Theatre, and DMA's Arts & Letters Live. She plays Margo Medina in the upcoming film Final Dress, which is also directed by the illustrious Christie Vela. She holds a BFA in Theatre Studies and BA in Psychology from SMU and is represented locally by The Campbell Agency.

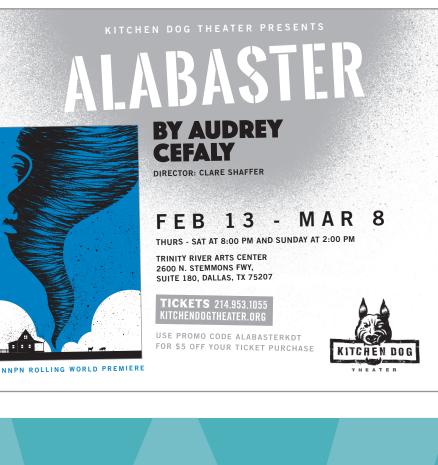


David Lugo (MAN 3) Dallas Theater

Center In the Heights, Oedipus El Rey, White Rabbit Red Rabbit. WaterTower Theater Elliott A Soldiers Fugue, Guadalupe in the Guest Room. Theater Three The Minotaur, The Last One Nighter On The Death Trail, The Fantastiks, Just to name a few. A proud member of Actors Equity Association, David is represented by The Kim Dawson Agency.



Juliana Gamino (CHILD 3) is delighted to be a part of Theater Three alongside such great talent! She was recently seen in Dallas Theater Center's A Christmas Carol as Belind Cratchit. Juliana's love for all forms of art has grown tremendously over the last few years. Juliana studies ballet & jazz dance, and also plays the violin! Juliana would like to thank her family for their constant love and support. Hope you enjoy the show!









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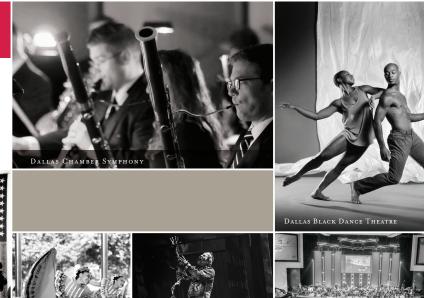


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